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December 4, 1962 - Tuesday

Fog was heavy last night, as it was again today. Consequently, Governor Williams and his party did not arrive for the African talks which were to engage us this morning, this afternoon, and all of tomorrow. I had undertaken to have a dinner for him tonight at the house, but this, too, had to be cancelled.

I had two telegrams from the Department this morning. The first instructed me to attend the meeting in Nassau on December 19 and 20, arriving in Washington by December 17 in order to take part in briefings. The second provided for my return by December 14 for pre-Nassau discussions. This obviously will cause complications, for I had counted on briefing Mr. Orrick on December 14 about our budgetary situation.

We have just received an ominous instruction to cut $300,000 in expenses for the present fiscal year. This will mean reducing our over-all personnel strength by 150. In view of the cuts in the last two years, I would have thought offhand it impossible to run this Embassy properly, or improperly, with such a reduction in force.

I had a long meeting with Findley Burns and others on the subject this afternoon. The proposal from Washington is even worse than I [redacted] anticipated. Actually, I do not believe they realize there what a comparatively small number of people handle the substantive State Department work here. We have altogether in England, including Consulates, a force of 1168 people. In this building, 688 of them are ensconced. But of this number, only 152, including locals, are working on State Department programs. Of these, 77 are Americans, and 75 are locals. 69 of them are in the Consular Section. In addition, there are 203 persons, of whom 50 are American and 153 are locals, in the Administrative Section. The majority

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